

**FORM A - AREA**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black  
& white) - Indicate on back  
of each photo street addresses  
for buildings shown. Staple to  
left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the  
area indicating properties within it.  
Number each property for which individual  
inventory forms have been completed.  
Label streets including route numbers, if  
any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate  
sheet if space here is not sufficient).

UTM REFERENCE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

USGS QUADRANGLE  
SCALE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAT. D  
Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

D	232-257
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Town Natick, Needham, Sudbury, Wayland

Name of Area (if any) Natick Research  
and Development Laboratories

Present Use U.S. Army Laboratory  
+ housing complex

General Date or Period 1953 - Present

General Condition \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded by \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

# HABS/HAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Washington, DC 20240

1. SITE I.D. NO

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2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Family Housing  
Buildings 46-56 and 58-61

5. ORIGINAL USE

Housing

7. CLASSIFICATION

Military - Housing

9. RATING

4

10. DATE

1974

3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

Natick Housing  
Natick R&D Laboratories

6. PRESENT USE

Housing

8.

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

11. REGION

Mid-Atl.

4. CITY/VICINITY

COUNTY

STATE

SCALE

1:24

1:62.5

QUAD

OTHER

NAME

12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS

U.S. Army DARCOM

DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

Buildings 46-56: Concrete foundation, wood frame. Board & batten siding. Rectangular 48'-4" x 34'. Separate carports. Two stories, gable roof, asphalt shingles. Single doors, sliding windows. Buildings 58-61 same dimensions but one story.

☒ 46 = 237  
 47 = 238  
 48 = 239  
 49 = 240  
 50 = 241  
 51 = 242  
 52 = 243  
 53 = 244

54 = 245  
 55 = 246  
 56 = 247  
 58 = 248  
 59 = 249  
 60 = 250  
 61 = 251

PL NAT  
 USO NAT  
 38298

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?  
(SPECIFY THREAT)

☐ YES

☐ NO

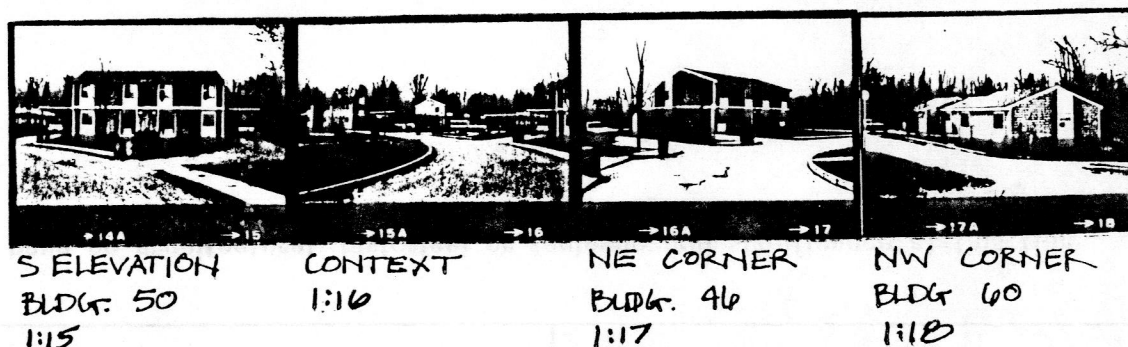
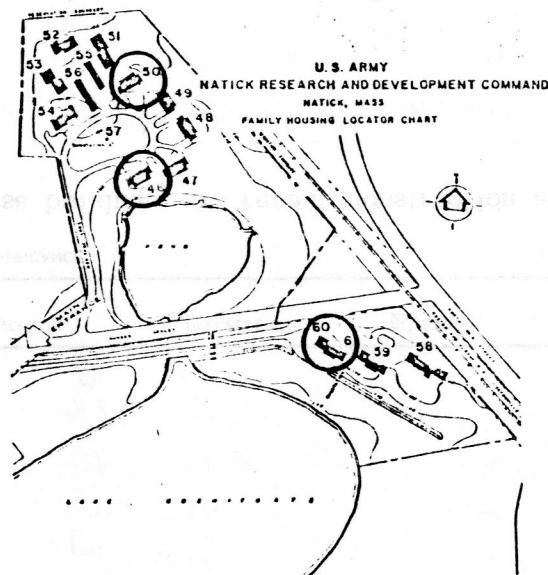
☒ UNKNOWN

16. SIGNIFICANCE

These buildings are recent construction and have no architectural, historical or technological significance at this time.

NAT.D

## 17. PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> NAME
19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, LIMITED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNLIMITED	20. EXISTING SURVEYS	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	<input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> NHL
			<input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY	<input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/> HABS
				<input type="checkbox"/> HAER-1
				<input type="checkbox"/> HAER
				<input type="checkbox"/> NPS
				<input type="checkbox"/> STATE
21. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER				

Smalle, Daniel E. "The New QM Research and Development Center." Quartermaster Review, July-August 1952.

U.S. Army Natick Research and Development Laboratories. Analysis of Existing Facilities/Environmental Assessment Report.  
Natick, MA: USANL, November 1982.

U.S. Army Natick Research and Development Laboratories. Real Property Inventory. Facilities Engineering Office, Natick, MA, 1982.

22 INVENTORIED BY	AFFILIATION	DATE
David G. Buchanan and John P. Johnson	Building Technology Incorporated	April 1983



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U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Washington, DC 20240

NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE <b>Natick Research and Development Laboratories, Massachusetts</b>		5 ORIGINAL USE		7 CLASSIFICATION <b>Military - Research &amp; Testing</b>		9 RATING ---	
SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO) <b>Natick Research and Development Laboratories, Kansas Street</b>		6 PRESENT USE				10 DATE <b>1953</b>	
CITY/VICINITY <b>Natick</b>		COUNTY <b>Norfolk</b>		STATE <b>Massachusetts</b>		11 REGION <b>Mid-Atl.</b>	
				8 UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING			
				SCALE 1:24 1:62.5		QUAD NAME	
				OTHER			

112 Army DARCQM

1. NAME AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND  
2. CONTRACT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

1. Natick Research and Development Laboratories, located 20 miles west of Boston on the shore of Lake Cochituate in Natick, Massachusetts, is a major U.S. Army laboratory complex responsible chiefly for research and development of clothing, personal equipment and food systems in support of the individual combat soldier. The installation was established in 1953 and is currently comprised of 56 buildings, situated on 78 acres of land. Natick Laboratories also maintains four housing areas, one adjacent to the laboratory complex itself and the others in the nearby suburban communities of Wayland, Needham, and Sudbury.

Following World War II, the Army began to investigate the possibility of establishing a consolidated Quartermaster research and development complex. In October 1949, Congress authorized \$11 million for the construction of a consolidated Quartermaster research laboratory to be located in Natick. Construction was begun in November 1952, and in October 1953, the Quartermaster Research and Development Center was designated a permanent installation. The new center was unique because it was the first installation in the country that combined the study of human reaction to environment with the study of military equipment under virtually all known climatic conditions. The installation, operable by the summer of 1954, originally consisted of ten reinforced concrete buildings that housed the various research and development activities. Today, the Natick Laboratories is one of DARCOM's central laboratories. The Natick Laboratories includes the Aero-mechanical Engineering Laboratory, the Individual Protection Laboratory, the Science and Advanced Technology Laboratory, the Food Engineering Laboratory, and the Operations Research Systems Office.

ION ☐ EXCELLENT ☐ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☐ DETERIORATED ☐ RUINS

15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN  
(SPECIFY THREAT)

### 3 SIGNIFICANCE

**There are no Category I or II buildings at the Natick Research and Development Laboratories. The Climatic Chambers Building (Building 2), an environmental test facility with arctic and tropic test chambers, is the only Category III property.**

## UTM COORDINATES

(See map on reverse side)

A: 19 305590 4684630

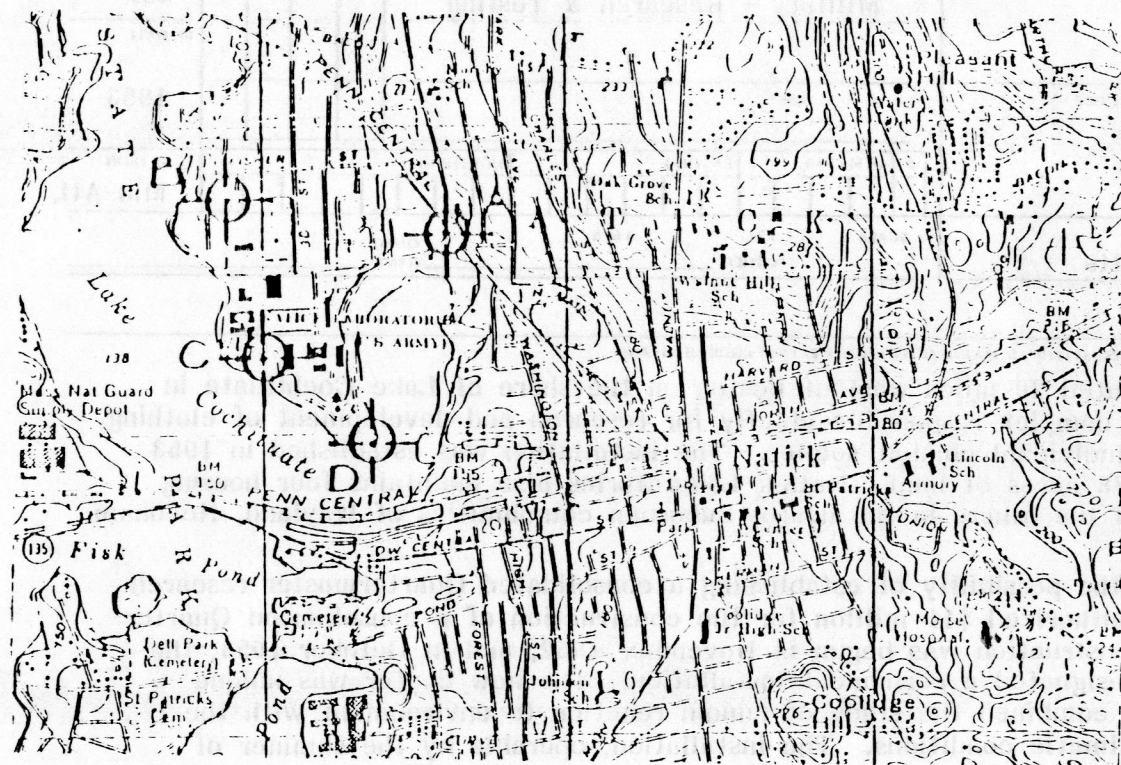
B: 19 304830 4684740

C: 19 304940 4684240

D: 19 305350 4683930

Installation area: 78 acres

17. PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

☐ YES

☒ NO

☐ NAME

19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

☐ YES, LIMITED

☐ YES, UNLIMITED

☒ NO

☐ UNKNOWN

20. EXISTING SURVEYS

☐ NR

☐ FHL

☐ HABS

☐ HAER-1

☐ HAER

☐ H'S

☐ STATE

☐ COUNTY

☐ LOCAL

☐ OTHER

21. REFERENCES: HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Smalle, Daniel E. "The New QM Research and Development Center." Quartermaster Review, July-August 1952.

U.S. Army Natick Research and Development Laboratories. Analysis of Existing Facilities/Environmental Assessment Report. Natick, MA: USANL, November 1982.

U.S. Army Natick Research and Development Laboratories. Real Property Inventory. Facilities Engineering Office, Natick, MA, 1982.

For further documentation, see HAER No. MA-52, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress.

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AFFILIATION

Building Technology Incorporated

DATE

April 1983



# HABS/HAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Washington, DC 20240

# 232  
17

1. SITE I.D. NO		5. ORIGINAL USE Adm. Gen. Purp		7. CLASSIFICATION <u>Military - Administrative</u>		9. RATING 4	
2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE Administration General Purpose Building 1		6. PRESENT USE Adm. Gen. Purp				10. DATE 1954	
3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO) Natick R&D Laboratories				8. UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING		11. REGION Mid-Atl.	
4. CITY/VICINITY		COUNTY		SCALE 1:24 1:62.5		QUAD NAME	

12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS

U.S. Army DARCOM

13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND  
EXISTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

Concrete foundation, reinforced concrete load-bearing walls. Irregular shape; roughly two sections, auditorium wing (north end) 114' x 71'-4", office wing (south end) 259' x 46', three stories and basement. Flat built-up roof. Auditorium wing openings. Double doors facing west, glass curtain-wall window. Office wing openings; double doors, awning-type windows. Door canopies. Building includes offices, 480 seat auditorium and 265 person capacity cafeteria. Ballinger Co., Philadelphia, Architects/Engineers; George A. Fuller Co., Boston, General Contractor.

PI - NAT  
USG NAT  
SEUTA

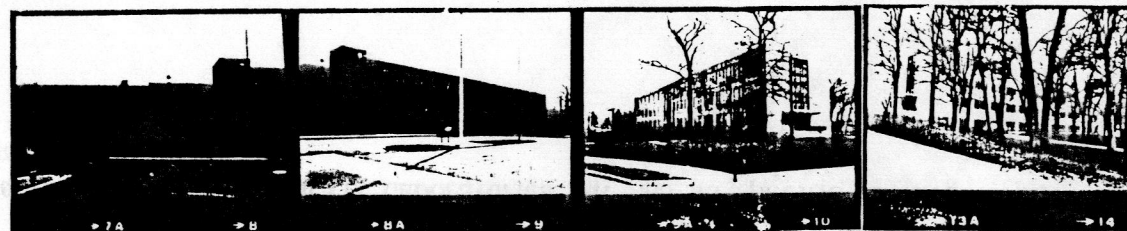
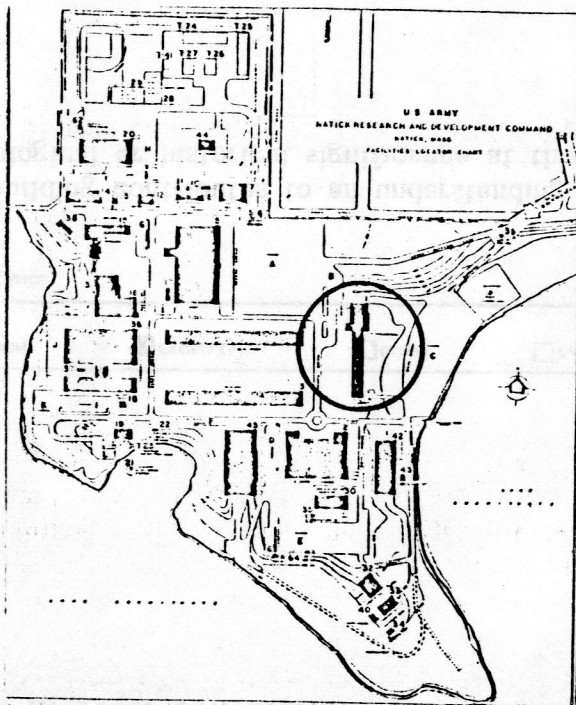
14. CONDITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN
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16. SIGNIFICANCE

This building contributes to an understanding of activities at Natick R&D Laboratories but has no specific architectural, technological or historical significance at this time.

NAT-D

17. PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



W ELEVATION  
1:8

W ELEVATION  
1:9

SW CORNER  
1:10

SE CORNER  
1:14

18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

☐ YES

☒ NO

☐ NAME

19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

☐ YES, LIMITED

☐ YES, UNLIMITED

☒ NO

☐ UNKNOWN

20. EXISTING SURVEYS

☐ NR

☐ NHL

☐ HABS

☐ HAER-1

☐ HAER

☐ NPS

☐ STATE

☐ COUNTY

☐ LOCAL

☐ OTHER

21. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

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U.S. Army Natick Research and Development Laboratories. Analysis of Existing Facilities/Environmental Assessment Report. Natick, MA: USANL, November 1982.

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April 1983



# HABS/HAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Washington, DC 20240

234  
235

1. SITE I.D. NO.		5. ORIGINAL USE Laboratory		7. CLASSIFICATION Military - Research & Testing		9. RATING 4	
2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE Development Building - 234 Building 4 (Building 3 is similar construction) - 235		6. PRESENT USE Laboratory				10. DATE 1954	
3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO) Natick R&D Laboratories				8. UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING		11. REGION Mid-Atl.	
4. CITY/VICINITY		COUNTY		STATE		SCALE 1:24 1:62.5 QUAD NAME	

## 12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS

U.S. Army DARCOM

## 13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

Concrete foundation, reinforced concrete load-bearing walls. Rectangular 502' x 60', three stories and basement. Flat built-up roof. Awning-type windows. Double doors. Stair towers on ends. Long sides face north/south. Ballinger Co., Philadelphia, PA - Architects/Engineers; George A. Fuller Co., Boston, General Contractor.

Building 3, Research Building, is same construction. Both buildings are connected by an enclosed walkway of recent construction.

PL MAT  
USGS MAT  
SICCA

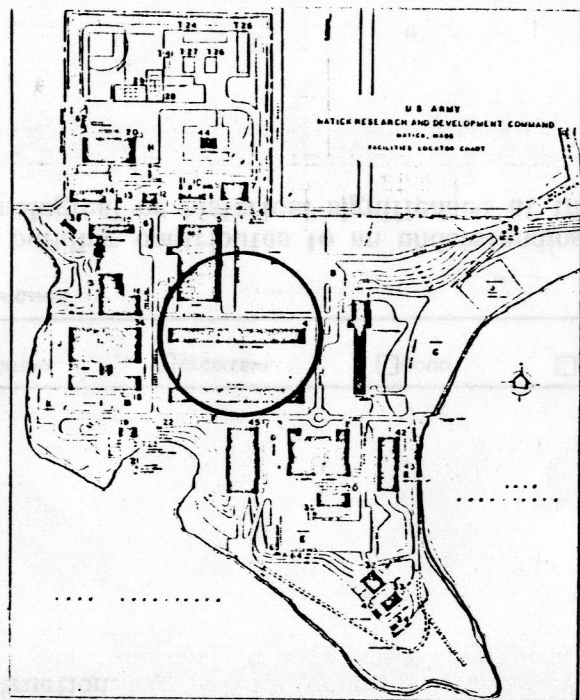
CONDITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN
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## 16. SIGNIFICANCE

This building contributes to an understanding of activities at Natick R&D Laboratories but has no specific architectural, technological or historical significance at this time.

WARD

17. PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



SW CORNER  
1:3

S ELEVATION  
1:4

18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

☐ YES

☒ NO

☐ NAME

19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

☐ YES, LIMITED

☐ YES, UNLIMITED

☒ NO

☐ UNKNOWN

20. EXISTING SURVEYS

☐ NR

☐ NHL

☐ HABS

☐ HAER-1

☐ HAER

☐ NPS

☐ STATE

☐ COUNTY

☐ LOCAL

☐ OTHER

21. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

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